

Remarks

Claim Status:

Claims 1 – 55 were originally presented for examination in this application. On March 3, 2006, Applicants filed a preliminary amendment in which claims 56 – 74 were added. An Office Action issued on December 15, 2006, rejecting claims 1 – 74 as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0233238 to Lahdesmaki (“Lahdesmaki”). In this Amendment and Response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4-11, 14-21, 23-30, 33-38 and 52, cancelled claims 3, 12, 13, 22, 31, 32, 40-51 and 53-74 and added new claims 75 and 76. Support for the new claims and these amendments can be found throughout the originally filed claims and specification, and at least at paragraph [0039] of the application as published. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

As reflected in the independent claims as amended, Applicants’ approach provides a visual indication of items selected from a series of lists by replacing a first list of items with a list of *sub-items* associated with an item selected from the first list, and displaying *the selected item* at another display area of the screen. Lahdesmaki does not teach or suggest such a replacement. Instead, Lahdesmaki merely layers additional menu selections and lists onto previously unused areas of the screen without replacing lists that are no longer relevant (due, for example, to a user’s selection of another item). Specifically, Lahdesmaki describes a menu system in which the selection of an item “may cause another folder containing elements to be simultaneously displayed.” Lahdesmaki, para. [0027] (emphasis added). Lahdesmaki goes on to describe other embodiments in which “a new folder may be linked to a previous folder graphically and/or placed in the vicinity of the previous folder.” Lahdesmaki, para. [0031] (emphasis added). In each case, Lahdesmaki adds lists of menu options to previously unused areas of the screen while *maintaining* the previously viewed lists at their current positions, creating a cluttered and confusing array of boxes and lists.

In contrast, Applicant's invention, as recited in the present claims, maintains a list of selectable items at one screen location, and as items are selected, they are moved to a separate "second display area" (where, in accordance with some claims, the moved items are displayed vertically in order to minimize the area of the screen consumed by the lists). Applicant's strategy of replacement rather than accumulation eliminates the cluttered screen that results from using Lahdesmaki's approach, as reflected, for example, in Figures 7 and 8 of the Lahdesmaki application. The approach set forth in the present claims avoids clutter while still allowing a user to view a navigational history of his or her path through the menu system.

Accordingly, because Lahdesmaki does not teach or suggest every element of independent claims 1, 20 and 52, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims as well as the rejections of those claims that depend therefrom.

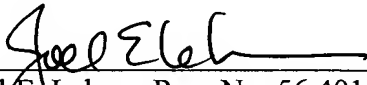
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that, in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, claims 1, 2, 4-11, 14-21, 23-30, 33-39, 52, 75 and 76 are in condition for allowance, and request that application proceed to issue. If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the undersigned attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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